

REPORT

OF THE

***TREASURER,***

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

AND

**Superintending School Committee,**

OF THE

**Town of Amherst,**

FOR THE

*YEAR ENDING MARCH 1ST, 1880.*

AMHERST:  
CABINET PRESS.  
1880.



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## REPORT OF TOWN TREASURER.

Treasurer in account with town of Amherst :

**DR—Cash received :**

To balance in Treas. March 1, 1879,	\$1,511 60
In hands of Collector for 1874,	376 30
“ “ “ “ “ 1878,	2,141 44
Taxes assessed,	8,906 50
Interest on taxes for 1878,	25 00
Railroad Tax,	405 95
Insurance Tax,	7 50
Savings Bank Tax,.	1,639 83
Literary Fund,	102 86
Rent of Town Hall,	102 42
Lots sold in cemetery,	40 00
License Stanley's menagerie,	2 00
Town Farm,	182 22
Interest on Lawrence Fund,	70 00
	<hr/> \$15,513 62

**CR—By cash paid out :**

State Tax,	\$1,784 00
County Tax,	1,767 92
Schools,	2,224 87
School House Tax,	207 00
Town Officers,	755 00
Fire Department,	166 14
Miscellaneous,	1,384 87
Snow Bills,	183 83
Roads and Bridges,	911 75
Principal and Interest,	2,250 80
Aid to G. Hill,	84 50
“ “ Mrs. McCluer,	3 00
In hands of Collector for 1874,	376 30
“ “ “ “ “ 1879,	2,218 00
“ “ “ Treasurer,	1,195 64
	<hr/> \$15,513 62

## HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

James S. Parkhurst, posts, rails and labor on highway,	\$29 84
B. B. Whiting, plank and labor on highway,	48 10
A. F. Sawyer, plank,	2 04
Newton Perham, bridge stone,	8 00
Jabez F. Bills, drawing bridge stone and plowing,	5 50
Everett Hutchinson, covering bridge stone,	12 00
Albert E. Chickering, poles and labor on highway,	39 87
Arthur A. Bills, labor on bridge,	3 75
Dan'l W. Trow, " " "	10 00
Wm. Rhoades, " " "	18 25
Dan'l Peabody, " " "	3 00
Geo. R. Hassall, " " "	10 00
Chas. S. White, " " "	16 05
Chas. H. White, " " "	9 36
Chas. A. Peabody, labor on highway,	3 96
Jas. G. Hazeltine, " " "	11 62
Luther B. Converse, " " "	8 84
G. P. Burns, " " "	6 73
John Gould, " " "	42 87
S. D. Herrick, " " "	27 61
Joseph E. Fowle, " " "	47 50
Simon Ayer, " " "	29 52
H. G. Felton, " " "	22 75
Chas. F. Wright, " " "	5 50
Jacob B. Upham, " " "	23 86
Chester Shipley, " " "	4 06
F. Maxwell, " " "	16 36
R. H. Prince, " " "	19 11
Geo. R. Hartshorn, labor on bridge and highway,	50 40

Chas. S. Parker, labor on bridge and highway,	\$56 91	
A. A. Wells, labor on bridge and highway,	33 59	
Leander Lovejoy, labor on bridge and highway,	24 60	
Frank Hartshorn, timber for bridge,	8 80	
Jacob B. Upham, " " "	6 00	
P. S. Barrett, posts and poles and labor on highway,	12 77	
J. U. Prince, repairing plow and labor on highway,	5 00	
Harrison Plumer, labor on highway,	1 00	
Wm. B. Sargent, " "	163 30	
E. W. Jones, " "	31 84	
Frank W. Noyes, " "	87	
W. H. Hubbard, " "	17 20	
Wm. Pratt, " "	13 42	
	<hr/>	\$911 75

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### SNOW BILLS.

C. S. White,	\$8 77
Frank W. Chase,	4 00
F. Maxwell,	75
L. B. Converse,	2 00
James F. Weston,	2 41
F. W. Holbrook,	2 00
Rodney H. Prince,	4 25
A. B. Woodward,	2 50
James C. Boutelle,	4 68
Charles A. Riddle,	11 80
Samuel Wilkins,	11 47
Charles A. Peabody,	4 94
James G. Hazeltine,	3 87
James S. Parkhurst,	3 37
Henry M. Parker,	9 19

Daniel A. Peabody,	\$20 40	
Charles F. Wright,	11 84	
George R. Hartshorn,	3 12	
T. M. Harvell,	10 67	
Charles S. Parker,	11 69	
E. P. Sargent,	4 17	
Charles H. Burnham,	10 42	
Silas P. Parkhurst,	4 75	
Albert Lowe,	1 69	
Robert Atkinson,	50	
Jacob B. Upham,	5 20	
B. B. Whiting,	1 63	
Wm. B. Sargent,	2 25	
Wm. Melendy,	1 04	
J. H. Fisher,	2 00	
J. C. Philbrick,	2 11	
J. U. Prince,	4 70	
H. S. Boutell,	4 50	
J. E. Fowle,	3 78	
W. H. Hubbard,	1 37	
	<hr/>	\$183 83

### TOWN OFFICERS.

Daniel W. Trow, selectman,	\$125 00
Mark Putnam            "	90 00
Luther Coggin,           "	55 00
R. T. Knight, treasurer,	50 00
A. A. Rotch, town clerk,	58 00
George W. Osgood, collector,	100 00
J. G. Davis, snpt. school committee,	54 50
J. E. Upton,       "       "       "	37 50
J. B. Fay, moderator,	3 00
P. Dodge, H. E. Woodberry, auditors,	6 00
E. R. Burt, police,	5 00
Joel F. Osgood, Jr., police,	8 00
Francis K. Boutelle, supervisor,	5 00



J. U. Prince, two years service supervisor,	\$10 00	
Daniel W. Trow, overseer of the poor,	20 00	
Luther Coggin, " " " "	11 00	
Mark Putnam, " " " "	7 00	
W. H. Hubbard, two years service supervisor,	10 00	
George W. Osgood, liquor agent,	100 00	
	<hr/>	\$755 00

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### SCHOOLS.

Edwin R. Burt, District No. 1,	\$899 96	
C. Brennan, " 2,	108 93	
G. P. Burns, " 3,	185 87	
H. S. Boutell, " 4,	170 83	
James C. Boutelle, " 5,	162 59	
W. R. Stackpole, " 6,	132 73	
John M. Prince, " 7,	161 36	
Charles H. Burnham, " 8,	120 08	
Wm. B. Sargent, " 9,	125 80	
Henry Wheeler, " 10,	110 07	
John Shattuck, " 11,	29 92	
Albert A. Junkins, " 12,	16 73	
	<hr/>	\$2,224 87

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### SCHOOL HOUSE TAX.

Edwin R. Burt, District No. 1,	\$100 00	
C. Brennan, " 2,	7 00	
Frank Hartshorn, " 4,	100 00	
	<hr/>	\$207 00

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### FIRE DEPARTMENT.

A. A. Rotch, treasurer of Lawrence Engine Co.,	\$111 00
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Services of firewards,	15 00	
J. B. Fay, steward,	13 14	
J. S. Carlton, Yankee Engine Co.,	27 00	
	<u>          </u>	\$166 14

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### PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST.

Ellen F. McAlvin, interest,	\$26 00	
Frank Hartshorn,       “	118 75	
Mary F. Hardy,         “	10 00	
Abel T. Rideout,       “	16 25	
George W. Bosworth, “	6 25	
A. Milton Wilkins     “	25 00	
Mary R. Fletcher,     “	65 00	
John H. Coggin, principal and interest,	720 50	
George H. Shaw,       “       “       “	\$1,263 05	
	<u>          </u>	\$2,250 80

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### PAUPERS OFF THE FARM.

W. D. Forsaith, goods for G. Hill,	\$80 00	
Henry M. Parker, wood “   “	4 50	
H. E. Woodberry, goods for Mrs. McCluer,	3 00	
	<u>          </u>	\$87 50

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### MISCELLANEOUS.

J. O. Pulsifer, insuring engine house,	\$54 00
C. L. Wilkins, painting   “   “	29 25
J. B. Fay, paint for       “   “	30 50
H. E. Woodberry, oil, &c “   “	1 85
“       “       clock rope,	3 70
John Carlton, repairing and cleaning town clock,	6 00
James P. Nourse, repairs on steeple,	65 62

F. K. Bontelle, services of undertaker,	\$46 05
Granville Parker, digging graves,	4 00
Edwin M Holt, work in cemetery, Dist. No. 3,	7 00
Committee for decorating soldiers' graves,	50 00
Return of births and deaths,	9 60 <sup>5</sup>
A. A. Rotch, notifying jurors,	5 30
Boylston & Rotch, year's bill for ad- vertising and job printing,	59 00
H. R. Wheeler, printing check-lists,	6 40
Henry M. Parker, sealing weights and measures,	8 00
Henry M. Parker, services and bills paid for town hall,	79 75
N. H. George, wood and oil for town hall,	16 65
J. A. Powers, iron sinks for town house,	5 00
E. R. Burt, putting sinks in " "	3 50
E. R. Burt, repairing reservoir,	6 03
F. E. Benden and E. G. Richardson, tuning piano,	3 00
Charles S. White, moving gravel and digging for cistern at town house,	5 56
Henry M. Parker, labor on cistern at town house,	2 00
W. L. Winslow, labor on cistern,	5 25
Wm. Rhodes, brick,	4 75
A. A. Gilson, cement,	4 00
E. A. Hammond, record book,	7 50
Copying, stationery,	18 00
Newton Lowe and others, watering places,	52 50
J. B. Fay, lead pipe, copper pump, etc.,	17 78
Bounty on foxes,	2 50
Bounty on hawks,	4 80
Dan'l W. Trow, painting engine house,	12 00
James C. Boutelle, shingling town barn,	15 00

James Cochran, labor and material for cistern,	\$26 50	
A. C. Buswell, visit at G. Hills,	75	
J. Knight, lumber and labor on town house,	2 50	
R. T. Knight, expense to Nashua, Man- chester and Concord,	14 00	
R. T. Knight, care of town clock,	15 00	
E. M. Holt, cutting bushes,	3 00	
J. U. Prince, carrying lambs to Nashua,	2 00	
J. G. Davis, books for library,	50 00	
Services of librarian,	25 00	
Abatements of taxes for 1878,	89 03	
“ “ “ “ 1879,	238 59	
Non-resident highway receipts,	50 18	
Discount on taxes,	217 08	
	<hr/>	\$1,384 87

#### TOWN DEBT.

Amount of notes against the town,		\$5,345 00
In Treasurer's hands,	\$1,195 64	
“ Liquor Agt's “	335 51	
“ Collector's “	2,517 74	
	<hr/>	\$4,048 89
Total debt of the town,		<hr/> \$1,296 11

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT T. KNIGHT, Treasurer.

AMHERST, February 28, 1880.

We hereby certify that we have examined the foregoing accounts of the Town Treasurer for the Town of Amherst the present year, and find them correctly cast and properly vouched.

PERLEY DODGE,  
GEO. W. BOSWORTH, } Auditors,

# REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1880.

## EXPENDITURES.

A. F. Sawyer, meal and Groceries,	\$95 76
W. D. Forsaith,                   “	15 92
H. E. Woodberry,               “	35 04
G. Walker & Son, meat,	22 19
H. Chase, fish,	8 92
Nourse & Stearns, grinding,	11 92
Joel F. Osgood, blacksmith bill.	10 95
S. Wilkins, bull, vegetables &c..	51 26
Chas. Tarbell, repairing wagon,	4 10
Wm. Rhoades, haying.	2 50
A. Gilson, goods,	5 29
J. Powers, stove &c.,	2 22
J. Wallace, mending tugs and collar.	70
R. Atkinson, binding rye,	1 00
E. P. Couch, goods,	7 90
D. S. Burnham, goods,	4 86
H. Barber, cloth for Foster and comforter,	2 03
G. Marvell, shoeing horse,	90
Dodge & Bartlett, goods,	1 49
E. Reed, killing hogs,	1 00
G. Small, repairing wagon and shoeing horse,	90
I. McCarty, labor,	128 00
Ranger, mending baskets,	1 30
Stockings for Foster,	37
Crooker, crackers &c.,	5 07
Cyrus Cross, sawing and grinding,	27 74
Robinson, meat,	56

G. R. Hassell, labor,	\$31 25
A. Jaquith, goods,	9 90
D. Whiting & Sons, shorts,	4 75
McIntire, mending harness,	1 30
B. Lund, butter,	5 04
J. Lewis, cask lime,	1 25
J. Marvell, cow,	42 00
J. Marvell, 4 bush. potatoes,	3 50
I. Dodge, 5       "       "	5 50
J. U. Prince, cow,	33 00
S. Moore, 1 day at saw mill,	1 00
Adams & Co., 1 kit Mackerel,	1 62
Batchelder, cloth,	40
Shanahan, 1 pr. slippers for Foster,	30
Mrs. Wheeler, tin ware,	40
J. Raymond, shoeing horse and setting wagon tire,	2 00
McGregor, garden seeds,	1 00
Bart. Ryan, 7 days planting,	7 00
S. Wilkins, pasturing cows,	5 00
J. Boutell, vinegar,	34
W. A. Drucker, haying,	31 00
C. S. Parker, pasturing cows,	4 50
G. W. Osgood, 1-2 pint whiskey,	25
Kittredge, beef,	3 50
Baiting horses and mending sled,	65
A. C. Buswell, for Foster,	1 50
1 Wheel,	1 25
J. A. Boutell, use of boar,	1 50
J. Knight, boards,	2 60
Lamp chimneys &c.,	54
S. Wilkins, services as superintendent,	300 00
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	\$953 73

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## RECEIPTS.

Sheep and lambs sold,	\$55 76
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Pigs	sold,	\$25 00
Hay	"	110 90
Eggs	"	8 76
Milk	"	764 93
Calves	"	17 40
Potatoes	"	5 25
Walnuts	"	24 57
Rye	"	19 90
Beans	"	10 62
Beets	"	1 45
Turnips	"	2 55
Baiting horse,		30
Two days to court,		4 50
Work on road,		3 25
For wagon,		10 00
Use of grove,		5 50
For hams,		3 22
Keeping cattle,		1 00
L. Dow, keeping one night,		1 50
Peppers,		15
Cow-hide,		5 69
Hog,		19 50
Bull,		30 00
Bee-hive,		25
Use of bull,		4 00
		<hr/>
		\$1,135 95

(Last month's milk bill due.)

DANIEL W. TROW,  
MARK PUTNAM,  
LUTHER COGIN.

Overseers of the Poor.

February 28, 1880. We have examined the foregoing account and find it correctly cast and properly vouched.

PERLEY DODGE,  
GEO. W. BOSWORTH, } Auditors.

## Inventory of Personal Property at Town Farm.

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21 tons English hay, \$14.00,	\$294 00
23 tons stock hay, \$7.00,	161 00
Corn fodder,	14 00
Meal,	4 00
150 bushels corn,	60 00
2     "     sweet corn,	1 00
4     "     beans,	8 00
1     "     peas,	2 00
2 horses,	300 00
15 cows, 40 00,	600 00
2 hogs,	28 00
35 hens, 40c,	14 00
1 mowing machine,	50 00
1 horse rake and hoe,	25 00
1 roller,	15 00
4 ploughs,	30 00
1 road plough,	12 00
2 harrows,	8 00
1 horse fork and ropes,	15 00
1 cultivator,	3 00
1 hay cutter,	5 00
1 corn sheller,	5 00
3 hand rakes and one drag rake,	1 25
6 pitch forks,	3 00
4 shovels,	2 00
4 hoes, 2.00 ; potato digger, 50c.,	2 50
1 spade,	90
1 iron bar,	1 25
3 wood saws,	2 75
6 axes,	2 00
1 post axe,	50



1 light wagon,	\$50 00
1 double harness,	28 00
1 single       “	12 00
1 sleigh,	8 00
1 buffalo robe,	3 00
3 horse blankets, 2 surcingles,	2 00
1 lumber wagon,	60 00
1 small farm wagon,	25 00
2 ox carts,	110 00
1 spear drag,	4 00
1 traverse runner sled,	30 00
1 ox sled,	7 00
2 ox yokes,	2 00
1 slide yoke,	6 00
2 horse yokes,	1 00
4 whiffletrees,	2 00
1 evener,	1 00
Wheelbarrow and hand sled,	6 00
1 cant hook,	50
4 chains,	5 00
3 scythes and snaths,	2 00
1 barn broom,	25
1 brand iron “Town of Amherst,”	50
Hook and ladders,	8 47
4 baskets,	2 00
1 set dry measures,	75
1 wooden pump,	4 00
2 cart spears,	3 00
14 flour barrels,	1 75
Lumber and shingles,	24 00
2 pair steelyards, 4 augurs,	3 00
1 grindstone,	7 00
Sickles and corn cutters,	1 00
1 root cutter,	1 00
Chisel, screw-driver and nippers,	1 70
Wedges and saw set,	1 00
Two-thirds barrel of flour,	5 50
8 lbs. butter, 30c,	2 40

14 lbs. lard,	\$2 40
5 gallons molasses,	1 50
Coffee and tea,	75
Spices,	1 00
80 bushels potatoes, 45c.	36 00
40 " turnips,	8 00
5 " beets,	2 50
One-half barrel of cider.	1 00
Apples,	50
6 gallons boiled cider,	4 50
8 " pickles,	1 33
9 cans of fruit,	2 70
Walnuts and butternuts,	1 35
100 lbs. salt pork,	10 00
20 lbs. ham,	2 00
20 lbs. corned beef,	1 60
6 stoves,	45 00
3 tea kettles,	2 00
5 iron pots,	2 50
3 flat irons,	1 00
Frying pan and kettle,	1 00
1 apple parer,	50
3 butcher knives,	75
1 brass kettle,	3 00
Tin and cooking ware.	24 00
Tea and dining sets,	13 00
11 tumblers, 1.00, 2 salters, 50c.,	1 50
Spoon holder and easter,	75
Spoons, knives and forks,	1 50
1 tea pot stand,	25
3 kerosene lamps, 1 50, 2 lanterns, 2.00,	3 50
2 oil cans,	75
Stone and earthen jars,	1 45
Stone pitcher,	20
Wash bowl and pitcher,	1 00
4 pitchers,	2 50
40 fruit cans,	4 00
2 jugs,	80

1 lounge,	\$7 00
6 cane seat chairs,	6 00
3 rocking chairs,	3 00
12 chairs,	2 00
4 tables,	10 00
8 light stands,	2 00
5 cases drawers,	5 00
Clothes horse and dry sink,	2 00
3 wash tubs,	2 25
4 wooden pails,	40
Wash boards and bench,	1 00
Floor brush,	50
9 bedsteads,	10 50
1 teapoy,	1 50
Clothes line and pins,	50
Clothes wringer,	4 50
Clothes basket,	75
3 brooms,	50
Matches,	20
Garden seeds,	1 50
2 clocks,	5 00
5 mirrors,	3 00
2 coffee boxes,	50
2 tray 1.00, pork barrel 1.00, ham barrel 50c.	2 50
2 kegs,	1 50
2 sugar buckets,	1 20
1 meal chest,	2 00
2 cheese sates,	3 00
1 carpet,	6 00
8 woolen blankets,	5 50
18 cotton sheets,	8 00
30 pillow slips,	4 00
26 quilts and comfortables,	16 00
1 bolster,	1 00
20 pillows,	5 00
10 feather beds,	45 00
7 straw ticks,	3 50
1 cotton mattress,	50

4 table covers,	\$2 00
5 roller towels,	1 25
2 small towels,	25
28 window screens,	50
30 window curtains,	1 50
Soap and soap grease,	1 50
4 cords stove wood,	16 00
10 cords wood,	25 00
Bibles and other books,	4 00

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\$2,515 35

There are two paupers at the Town Farm.

Respectfully submitted,

DANIEL W. TROW,

MARK PUTNAM,

LUTHER COGGIN,

Overseers of Poor.

February 28, 1880. We have examined the foregoing estimate and find it correctly cast.

PERLEY DODGE,  
GEO. W. BOSWORTH, } Auditors.

# Report of the Superintending School Committee,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1880.

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By the returns of the Selectmen in April, 1879, the whole number of children in town between the ages of 5 and 15 was 218 ; girls 154, boys 214. The whole number of different scholars attending school not less than two weeks, as appears from the registers is 278 ; girls 121, boys 157. The attendance is noticeably larger than last year, when the number of enrolled scholars was 248. This increased attendance is mainly of youth above fifteen years of age, and is manifest specially in the High School, in which there are sixteen or eighteen scholars from the out districts, who pay tuition. This fact in connection with a uniform increase in the attendance of older scholars throughout the town, shows that many of our youth are intent on employing their time and seeking a more complete education. We have an interesting and promising class of youth, who desire more extended privileges than the district schools now furnish ; but under the present arrangement, these privileges can only be secured at the expense of individuals. To meet this demand, we need such an arrangement that all the children in town shall stand on the same basis of educational privileges ; so that all scholars who have the requisite qualifications shall be able to attend a school of higher grade, in which they may perfect themselves in the advanced studies. That such an arrangement is practicable under a new organization is plain from the experience of other towns, that have abandoned the old district system and committed their schools to the care of a Board of Education. Such a system need not be more expensive than the existing method. The average annual cost of the public schools in Amherst for the past eight years has been \$2,466 per annum ; \$879 has been expended for schools in District No. 1,

and \$1,587 for schools in the other districts. Under a different classification we might appropriate \$500 for the maintenance of a high school for nine months of the year, and still have a sum in hand sufficient to meet current charges for fuel and repairs and pay for the services of twelve female teachers, who should be employed for two terms of thirteen weeks each, at the usual remuneration for such services.

On this plan, the several districts might have an equal amount of instruction in all the elementary studies, and all the scholars would be alike candidates for promotion. This would be in harmony with the spirit of our democratic institutions; it would silence the objections made to the inequality of the existing distribution of the school money, and relieve many deserving students of the expense of tuition. As the subject of reorganization has been discussed in several previous reports, the Committee will only add that there is no reason apparent why the change should not work as favorably in this as in other towns. If the plan is adopted there must be a general and intelligent co-operation to secure immediate success.

#### DISTRICT NO. 1, UNDER THE SOMERSWORTH ACT.

*Prudential Committee, Mr. E. R. Burt.*

*Superintending Committee, Rev. J. G. Davis.*

Three terms in each department. The lower or primary department was taught by Miss Belle F. Small, who soon secured the confidence of her numerous charge. With exceptions caused by sickness, the scholars have generally been punctual and regular in attendance. The larger portion of the scholars have improved in Reading and the elementary branches of Geography and Arithmetic. The school, as a whole, would have made greater progress, if all the scholars had been present when able. If parents would consider what injury is inflicted on their children and the proper standard of discipline by truancy and tardiness, these faults would not be tolerated. Miss Small has given herself heartily to the duties of the school-room, and with very encouraging results. With a larger experience she will become a valuable teacher.

The High School, or upper department, in the Summer term was taught by Miss Viola J. Clarke. The school was not large, but the scholars in attendance were well disposed and regular in their studies. Miss Clarke exhibited much tact in the instruction of her classes, and held their attention to the subject of the lessons. She maintained good order, and the drill in Arithmetic with the constant use of the blackboard was excellent. The exercises at the examination were well rendered and the appearance of the scholars was gratifying to the visitors.

The two terms of the winter season were taught by Mr. S. N. Gage, a graduate of the Chandler Scientific School at Hanover. It is not easy to describe the condition and merits of this school, which has embraced an unusual number of pupils, of various ages and attainments. To say that the school has had 56 scholars and 25 classes will suggest some of the difficulties to be overcome. Mr. Gage brings knowledge, sound judgment and an even temper to his work; and most of the scholars have enjoyed and profited by his instruction. His evident familiarity with the lessons, and his facility of illustrating the principles of the study, awakened the enthusiasm of all who wished to improve. Mr. Gage has been aided in his work by the daily assistance of Miss A. J. McAlvin, who has had sole charge of several classes. She has proved a competent and devoted assistant. Without some help of this kind it is plain that many classes must have failed of any adequate supervision and instruction. While the school has been largely profitable and the teachers command our cordial approbation, we cannot in justice say that it was wholly satisfactory. The teachers have done as well as could be expected in the circumstances, but no genius nor industry could work the best results in such a mixed assemblage. It may be well for the citizens to look into the matter, and see if any remedy can be furnished. It is clearly a doubtful policy to admit, without restraint, all who apply from without, if we thereby crowd aside our own children or impair their educational privileges. We regret to add that some of the boys have brought reproach upon the school by disorderly conduct during the intermission, damaging the school house and destroying the apparatus.

## DISTRICT NO. 2.

*Prudential Committee, Mr. Cornelius Brennan.*

Two terms; both under the instruction of Mr. Jerry J. Doyle.

The irregularity in attendance, which has been noticed in previous reports, is still a serious fault in this school. Three scholars out of twenty-seven were present each half day of the first term; and one scholar out of twenty-four was present at every exercise of the second term. The average attendance, however, shows an advance on last year, and most of the scholars were diligent and faithful while at school. In Reading there was a manifest improvement. The classes in Geography and Arithmetic also recited with promptness and accuracy. The order and deportment of the pupils was to the credit of the teacher's discipline, whose devotion to his work was eminently praiseworthy.

## DISTRICT NO. 3.

*Prudential Committee, Mr. G. P. Burns.*

Three terms of school under the care of Miss Emma H. Weston, who taught in this district last year. The pupils in this school are to be commended for their regularity in attendance and their cheerful submission to rules. Most of the scholars have been diligent, but the diversity in ages and attainments has required a large number of single recitations which usually diminishes the enthusiasm of the exercises. With this exception, which is not easily removed, the school has done well. The school has been favored with the encouragement of frequent visitors, and many of the parents were present at the examination.

## DISTRICT NO. 4.

*Prudential Committee, Mr. H. S. Boutelle.*

This school continued under the care of Miss Marcella Smith,



who has been employed for two previous years in this district. The good order, regularity and courteous deportment of the members of this school deserve distinct commendation. The percentage of daily attendance and punctuality is the highest on our list, and, as might be anticipated, there was good work accomplished in the school room. Most of the scholars recited well at the examination; the answers of the older pupils were given with readiness and intelligence. As Miss Smith retires from the work of instruction, she was presented with a pleasant testimonial of esteem from the children. The gifts were well chosen; the lamp and the clock being appropriate symbols of two excellent qualities in a teacher.

#### DISTRICT NO. 5.

*Prudential Committee, Mr. J. C. Boutelle.*

Two terms. The first taught by Miss Anna L. Colburn, the second by Miss Ellen M. Nahor. This school has a good record for punctuality and regular attendance; the average of the second term was excellent. The members of this school have good talents and they ought to make superior scholars. There was a decided progress in Arithmetic and Geography, and the manners of some, who were very much at fault in their deportment, are also improving. Both of the teachers were constant and faithful in their work. Miss Nahor has secured a well merited popularity with her pupils, and her services are generally appreciated in the district.

#### DISTRICT NO. 6.

*Prudential Committee, Mr. W. R. Stackpole.*

Two terms; the first taught by Miss M. C. O'Connor, the second by Miss Viola R. Clarke. Under these teachers the scholars improved in discipline and thoroughness throughout the year. A keener interest would prevail among the pupils if they could be surprised occasionally by a visit from their parents and friends. They deserve this encouragement.

## DISTRICT NO. 7.

*Prudential Committee, Mr. J. Prince.*

The three terms of this district were taught by Miss M. L. Coolidge, who, although a beginner, brought to her work a thorough understanding of the best methods of teaching, and the results of each term showed that there had been an earnest application of the same. The principles rather than the words of the text-book were brought out in the recitations, and each subject of study was made plain and practical. Nearly every class showed that rapid and intelligent progress had been made.

## DISTRICT NO. 8.

*Prudential Committee, Mr. C. H. Burnham.*

The first and second terms under the charge of Miss A. J. McAlvin were very creditable to both teacher and scholars; good progress was made in History, Grammar and other studies. The third term, under Miss Jennie M. Burt of Milford, was very successful. Special improvement was manifest in Reading, and the other studies were pursued with animation and profit.

## DISTRICT NO. 9.

*Prudential Committee, Mr. Wm. B. Sargent.*

Three terms; the first and second taught by Miss E. A. Sawyer, the third by Miss H. H. Maynard. This school seems to have made little progress during the year. Both teachers were without experience, and doubtless would have had better success in a larger or a more well ordered school. There was a lack of interest and regularity originating in causes beyond their control. The parents did not co-operate with the teachers, as will be inferred from the records of attendance. In the

last term of 12 weeks, with 10 scholars, the absences amount to 130 days, with 162 instances of tardiness. Such irregularity can hardly be justified by any reasonable detentions.

#### DISTRICT NO. 10.

*Prudential Committee, Mr. Henry Wheeler.*

Two terms, both taught by Miss Bessie P. Fuller. The general progress in the regular studies would compare favorably with that of previous terms. The standard of discipline was not all that is desirable. Miss Fuller has pleasant manners and uses good methods of instruction. In Mental Arithmetic and Geography she does well. Singing also was a good feature. Attendance for the year very fair.

In the foregoing review of the several schools under the care of your Committee, we have omitted the usual details as to number of pupils, wages and length of terms expressed in weeks, which have been given in previous reports. These facts are embodied in a separate report, which by the present law, is returned to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and they are not essential in forming a judgment of the practical working of our public schools. It is evident that the larger proportion of our youth, have enjoyed the privileges, which are provided in comfortable and well furnished school houses and the services of competent and earnest instructors. The faults and deficiencies which we notice are in part incidental to the district system, the schools being small, and others will be corrected by the progress of better sentiments and the deeper sense of parental responsibility. The neighborhood in which the common school is regarded as a matter of supreme interest, will find the children sharing this enthusiasm. Rude manners and irregular habits will be discouraged and the school mistress will have an ally in every household. The criticisms will be friendly and parents will visit the school to encourage the students and show their interest in the teacher. Under the operation of this sympathetic spirit, local difficulties are also diminished and many evils are shut out.

In harmony with these suggestions, the Committee are of the opinion that the efficiency of all our schools would be incurred by more frequent inspection. In Massachusetts the Committee are required by law to visit each school once in every month, and the practical effect of this constant supervision is seen in the better classification of the scholars and better understanding of what is actually accomplished from day to day. Teachers are held to a more felt responsibility, their faults are discovered improvements are suggested and the supervision is a present, animating force in all the school rooms. It checks the beginnings of mischief and enables the Committee to sustain or reprove the teachers when complaint is made and dissatisfaction exists. Without enlarging on this topic, we submit that the office of the Superintending Committee would be more useful, if the present custom was modified by a more frequent visitation than is now practiced. An evil not manifest at the commencement of the term will often continue unchecked until the end of the school, when the loss and injury cannot be remedied. With a more thorough supervision and a more general and sympathetic interest on the part of our citizens, we believe that our public schools would meet all reasonable demands for popular education.

## THE LIBRARY.

At the last Annual Town Meeting our citizens voted with great unanimity to accept the gift of the Amherst Library Association. By this vote the town came into possession of two large book-cases and six hundred and eighty volumes of books. Most of these volumes were judiciously selected and many of them have a permanent value. Since the first of June 58 volumes have been added by purchase, and fifty-two volumes have been presented by the following persons :—Daniel F. Secomb of Concord, 2 volumes. Henry Howard of Charlestown, Mass. 1 vol. Miss Lucy F. Boylston, Longfellow's Poems of Places, 31 volumes. J. G. Davis, Agricultural Reports of Massachusetts, 17 vols. We make this record with great pleasure, and in behalf of our citizens venture to assure the donors that their gifts are valued and will be gratefully

remembered though no formal expression of thanks should be tendered to them in person.

The duties of the Librarian have been performed in an exemplary manner, and from her report to the Committee, we make the following extracts :

“The whole number of books loaned since the Library was made free to the inhabitants of the town (nearly nine months) is 1916 ; an average of a fraction over 54 volumes per week. The smallest number delivered in any week, June 28, 1879, was 23 vols. The largest number, Feb. 7, 1880, 81 vols. Average number out at any one time 100. In this circulation 145 families are represented. In most cases the books have been returned in reasonable time. The fines for over-due books, only 58 cents. No books have been lost ; some, injured by continual wear, will need re-binding and some worn out from constant usage must be withdrawn from circulation.”

An additional book-case, which is much needed, is soon to be set up in the Library without expense to the town.

From the statements of the Librarian, it appears that the number of readers is steadily increasing, and this increase is mainly among the youth of the town, showing that the public Library is meeting an existing want. To increase its usefulness there is need of an annual appropriation to supply new books. It is also desirable that the institution be committed to a Board of Trustees, who shall take charge of its management, purchase books, make rules, and do all acts necessary for the fulfilment of the objects for which a library should be maintained. A Board of six persons of whom one half might be females, to hold office for three years, two of this number retiring annually,—the vacancy to be filled by election or appointment of selectmen,—would constitute a sufficient and responsible body for the purpose. The appointment being an honorable distinction and the service of public advantage, no compensation would be expected. Should this or some similar arrangement be adopted, we think the Library will

be of general and lasting benefit. Seventy-five dollars was appropriated to the support of the Library in 1879.

From this source the following bills have been paid.

A. Williams & Co., Books,	\$36 13	
Estes & Lauriat, “	13 96	
Salary of Librarian,	25 00	
	<hr/>	\$75 09

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. G. DAVIS,	}	Superintending
J. E. UFTON,		School Committee.



